



DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.  
Director

**County of Los Angeles**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
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October 27, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair Pro Tem  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

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From: David Sanders, Ph.D.  
Director

Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer  
Probation Department

**JANUARY 27, 2004 MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH AND ZEV YAROSLAVSKY RE: PROGRESS OF THE EDUCATION COORDINATING COUNCIL**

On January 27, 2004, your Board officially supported the creation of the Education Coordinating Council (ECC or Council) to improve the educational outcomes for foster and probation youth with shared responsibilities between the county, cities and school districts. Further, your Board directed the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department to make quarterly reports on the progress of the ECC. This is the third quarterly report as reported to DCFS by Sharon Watson, consultant for the Council.

The home base of the Council has moved from the Children's Law Center to the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council Foundation, creating several advantages. It connects the ECC from the outset to the Children's Planning Council (CPC). The Children's Planning Council is a well-established, well-respected, diverse and collaborative public/private/community planning body, created by your Board and linked to it through its Chair. Its membership includes many of the same agencies and organizations identified to participate in the ECC. To formalize the link a CPC member will sit on the ECC and an ECC member will join the CPC. In addition, the CPC Foundation will provide fiscal services and contract oversight to the ECC for the first year, free of charge.

A contract has been executed between the CPC Foundation and the Children's Law Center for a set of ECC work activities, including: the preparation of a comprehensive report on the 2004 Education Summit; assistance with conducting an environmental scan of existing efforts to raise the educational achievement of foster and probation youth locally, statewide and nationwide, along with best practices and lessons learned; partnering with the American Bar Association and like organizations to get the word out with respect to the development and work of the ECC; and work with the Judiciary and other stakeholders in the court process to create vehicles for ongoing training and attention to the education needs of youth in out of home care.

Cecilia Sandoval was hired as a member of the ECC Consultant Team on September 15, 2004. She brings to the team extensive experience and knowledge of Los Angeles and its various communities having served as Executive Vice President of the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, a consultant to the Children's Planning Council during the 1990's, and most recently with First 5 LA, the City Commission on Children, Youth and their Families, the County's Interagency Operations Group, and several private foundations and community organizations. Ms. Sandoval will serve as a facilitator and outreach consultant for the ECC, assisting in designing an efficient planning process for the ECC; helping to ensure that a broad range of stakeholders and community interests related to foster and probation youth are represented in all phases of the Council's work; organizing and facilitating informational meetings, presentations, forums and focus groups regarding the ECC across Los Angeles County; and creating mechanisms and tools that will heighten the visibility of the ECC's work and facilitate communication with education-related systems and interests.

Contracts for the ECC's Program Director and Data/Information consultants are currently being finalized. Both are expected to begin work by mid-November.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) is hosting a meeting of superintendents of the school districts with the largest numbers of foster and probation youth (Los Angeles, Lancaster, Pasadena, Pomona, Compton, and Long Beach Unified School Districts), as well as the Antelope Valley High School, Inglewood and Wilsons districts, on November 8 to discuss the ECC and the need for their involvement in its activities.

Sharon Watson has completed over 35 interviews and meetings with representatives of all stakeholder groups to gather information and input about what they think the key activities of the Council should be and how it should accomplish its work. Those findings, along with the recommendations generated by the second Los Angeles County Education Summit, will be presented at an organizational meeting of key Council stakeholders in November, and will help guide the start-up of the ECC as well as its initial work.

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As Ms. Watson, is the lead consultant for the ECC, the Departments, in the interest of efficiency and accuracy, will refer the responsibility of the next and final quarterly Board report on the progress of the ECC to her.

If you have questions, please call me or your staff may contact Helen Berberian, Manager, Board Relations at (213) 351-5530.

DS:CS:  
PM:pm

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel